

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following list of claims replaces all prior claims of the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting essentially of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2471, 2472, or a complement thereof, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is 100 nucleotides or less in length.
2. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting essentially of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2474, 2475, or a complement thereof, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is 100 nucleotides or less in length.
3. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting essentially of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2473, 2476, or a complement thereof, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is 100 nucleotides or less in length.
4. (Withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid molecule having the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475 or 2476, or a complement thereof.
5. (Withdrawn) An isolated polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.
6. (Withdrawn) An isolated polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of claim 2.
7. (Withdrawn) An isolated polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of claim 3.
8. (Withdrawn) An isolated polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of claim 4.

9. (Withdrawn) An antibody or an antigen-binding fragment thereof which immunospecifically binds to a peptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2471, 2472 or 2473.

10. (Withdrawn) An antibody or an antigen-binding fragment thereof which immunospecifically binds to a peptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2474, 2475 or 2476.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting the presence of the hSARS virus in a biological sample, said method comprising:

(a) amplifying a nucleic acid of the hSARS virus using primers, one of which consists of ~~having~~ the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NOS:2471 ~~and/or or~~ 2472; and

(b) detecting in the nucleic acid using a probe ~~having~~ consisting of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2473.

12. (Curretnly Amended) A method for detecting the presence of the hSARS virus in a biological sample, said method comprising:

(a) amplifying a nucleic acid of the hSARS virus using primers, one of which consists of ~~having~~ the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NOS:2474 ~~and/or or~~ 2475; and

(b) detecting in the nucleic acid using a probe ~~having~~ consisting of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2476.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a subject infected with the hSARS virus, said method comprising:

(a) obtaining total RNA from a biological sample obtained from the subject;

- (b) reverse transcribing the total RNA to obtain cDNA; and
- (c) subjecting the cDNA to PCR assay using a set of primers derived from a nucleotide sequence of the hSARS virus having China Center for Type Culture Collection Deposit Accession No. CCTCC-V200303.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a subject infected with the hSARS virus, said method comprising:

- (a) obtaining total RNA from a biological sample obtained from the subject
- (b) reverse transcribing the total RNA to obtain cDNA; and
- (c) subjecting the cDNA to PCR assay using a set of primers, one of which consists of ~~having~~ the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NOS:2471 ~~and/or or~~ 2472.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 further comprising (d) detecting a product of PCR assay with a probe.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the probe is a nucleic acid molecule ~~having~~ consisting of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2473.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a subject infected with the hSARS virus, said method comprising:

- (a) obtaining total RNA from a biological sample obtained from the subject
- (b) reverse transcribing the total RNA to obtain cDNA; and

(c) subjecting the cDNA to PCR assay using a set of primers, one of which consists of having the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NOS:2474 and/or or 2475.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 further comprising (d) detecting a product of PCR assay with a probe.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the probe is a nucleic acid molecule ~~having~~ consisting of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2476.

20. (Currently Amended) A kit comprising in one or more containers one or more isolated nucleic acid molecules ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2471, SEQ ID NO:2472, and SEQ ID NO:2473, wherein the nucleic acid molecule or molecules are 100 nucleotides or less in length.

21. (Currently Amended) A kit comprising in one or more containers one or more isolated nucleic acid molecules ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2474, SEQ ID NO:2475, and SEQ ID NO:2476, wherein the nucleic acid molecule or molecules are 100 nucleotides or less in length.

22. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting essentially of at least 10 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2471, 2472, or a complement thereof, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is 100 nucleotides or less in length.

23. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting essentially of at least 10 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2474, 2475, or a

complement thereof, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is 100 nucleotides or less in length.

24 (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting essentially of at least 10 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2473, 2476, or a complement thereof, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is 100 nucleotides or less in length.

25. (New) A method for identifying a subject infected with the hSARS virus, said method comprising:

- (a) obtaining total RNA from a biological sample obtained from the subject
- (b) reverse transcribing the total RNA to obtain cDNA; and
- (c) subjecting the cDNA to PCR assay using a set of primers, one of which is the nucleic acid molecule according to claim 22.

26. (New) The method of claim 25 further comprising (d) detecting a product of PCR assay with a probe.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the probe is a nucleic acid molecule consisting essentially of at least 10 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2473 and is 100 nucleotides or less in length.

28. (New) A method for identifying a subject infected with the hSARS virus, said method comprising:

- (a) obtaining total RNA from a biological sample obtained from the subject
- (b) reverse transcribing the total RNA to obtain cDNA; and

(c) subjecting the cDNA to PCR assay using a set of primers, one of which is the nucleic acid molecule according to claim 23.

29. (New) The method of claim 28 further comprising (d) detecting a product of PCR assay with a probe.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the probe is a nucleic acid molecule consisting essentially of at least 10 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2476 and is 100 nucleotides or less in length.